(b) if so, whether such projects have since been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

National Highways in Bihar

404. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the national highways passing through Bihar;

(b) whether these national highways are in a dilapidated condition due to lack of repairs,

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of repair work proposed to be undertaken of these highways; and

(e) the number of roads proposed to be declared as the new national highways?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The National Highways passing through Bihar are as under :-

NH No.	Name of NHs
2	Delhi-Calcutta
6	Calcutta-Dhule
19	Ghazipur-Patna
23	Chas-Talchar
28	Lucknow-Barauni
28 A	Piprakothi-Raxaul
30	Mohania-Bakhtiyarpur
31	Barhi-Guwahati
32	Gobindpur-Jamshedpur
33	Barhi-Bharagora

(b) and (c) No. Sir These National Highways passing through Bihar, are generally being maintained in traffic worthy conditions, within available resources.

(d) Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and ordinary repairs, periodic renewals and restoration of monsoon damages are taken up, wherever and whenever necessary.

(e) Ghazipur-Patna highway has been declared as National Highway No. 19 recently. However, due to meagre allocation of funds during the 8th Five Year Plan, it is difficult to declare any other Highway, in the State of Bihar, as National Highway.

[English]

Irregularities in Vysya Bank Ltd., New Delhi

405. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of frauds and issue of cheque books unauthorisedly and illegally in the branches of Vysya Bank Ltd. at New Delhi during 1994, 1995 and 1996 so far indicating the action taken in each of these cases;

(b) the reasons for not reporting all the cases of frauds and issue of cheque books illegally and unauthorisedly to the police,

(c) whether such cases have been reported to the Reserve Bank of India; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Details of the cases of frauds/issue of cheque books unauthorisedly/illegally in the Connaught Place, Karol Bagh and Chandni Chowk Branches of Vysya Bank Ltd in Delhi during 1994, 1995 and 1996 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are given in the attached *statement*.

(b) RBI has intimated that the Bank has reported to Police both the cases pertaining to Karol Bagh Branch However, since the amount in the case at Connaught Place Branch had been restored to the customer and personal responsibility has been fixed to recover the amount from the concerned officer, no complaint was lodged with the police However, RBI is advising the Bank to report the matter to the police In so far as the fraud case at Chandni Chowk Branch is concerned, the bank has instructed its controlling office to lodge a complaint with the police immediately

(c) and (d) RBI has intimated that all the cases, except the one at Chandni Chowk Branch which occurred recently, have been reported to it

STATEMENT

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

Name of the branch	Year	Amount involved	Amount recovered	Remarks
Connaught Place	1994	1.00	Nil	A cheque book was issued on the basis of xerox copy of requisition slip to an unidentified person. Three cheques with forged signatures were encashed aggregating Rs. 1 lac. Three officials have been punished for passing the fake cheques. The amount fo Rs 1 lac has been restored to the account concerned.
Karol Bagh	1995	4.40	Nil	One person obtained a cheque by presenting fake requisition slip which is similar to the original cheque requisition slip held with the customer. The culprit encashed seven cheques for Rs. 4 40 lacs and was nabbed while attempting to encash the next cheque and handed over to the police.
Karol bagh	1995	2 90	2 23	Some employees of the account holder obtained cheque book from the branch fraudulently and encashed several cheques, through clearing for the aggregate amount of Rs. 2 9 lakhs. One clerk at the branch suspected to be involved in the branch has been suspended.
Chandni Chowk	1996	0 80		Culprits got cheque requisition slip printed and obtained cheque book with forge signatures Three cheques from this book were encashed for an aggregate amount of Rs. 0 8 lakhs in June 96 Internal investigation by the bank is in progress

[Translation]

Branches of Nationalised Banks

406 SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened during the last three years in Bihar, location-wise, and

(b) the branches of nationalised banks in rural areas proposed to be opened in the near future, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the number of branches of public sector banks opened in Bihar during the last three years is as shown below

Year	No of branches
1993-94	20
1994-95	4
1995-96 (Upto 31-12-1996)	6

Location-wise details of these branches are furnished in enclosed statement-I

(b) Location-wise details of rural centres in Bihar in respect of which RBI has granted authorisation to public sector banks for opening branches are at enclosed Statement-II.